COUNTRY	Poland	DATE OF INFORMATION	1949
SUBJECT	Medical		
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper	DATE DIST. *14* Dec 1949	
WHERE PUBLISHED	Warsaw	NO. OF PAGES 2	
DATE PUBLISHED	27 Oct 1949	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	
LANGUAGE	Polish		

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE   Rzeczpospolita, No 296, 1949.

SCARLET FEVER UNCHECKED IN WARSAW; REPORT DOCTOR SHORTAGE IN VILLAGES

88 CASES REPORTED -- Rzeczpospolita, No 296, 27 Oct 49

From 25 September to 1 October, 88 cases of scarlet fever were reported in Warsaw.

The number of cases did not diminish early this month; the disease is spreading, especially among children, but adult cases are few. There is a shortage of beds in children's hospitals and clinics. On one day alone, 25 children stricken with the disease could not be admitted to a hospital for lack of space. At the end of October, a new wing will be opened for scarlet-fever patients in the Swietego Ducha Hospital.

LARGE CITIES HAVE OVERSUPPLY OF DOCTORS -- Rzeczpospolita, No 296, 27 Oct 49

Because of the shortage of permanent medical servies in villages, mobile medical units from the larger urban centers visit the villages every Sunday to administer medical aid and to give instructions in the fundamentals of hygiene and health.

This service cannot replace permanent medical aid but is an effort to bridge the gap until the number of physicians is increased or the existing ones are more evenly redistributed according to the density of population, the only solution to the problem at present.

In 1938, there were, exclusive of the Army Medical Corps, 12,917 doctors, or 3.7 for each 10,000 population. This number was not adequate to provide the required medical care in villages. After 5 years of war, the number was reduced to 7,732, or 3.2 for each 10,000 population.

Today in Poland, 5 years after the end of hostilties, doctors number about 8,400. The increase is small but it must be remembered that a medical course lasts 5 years, with an additional year of internship, and the mortality rate in the medical service in Poland is large.

RESTRICTED   RESTRICTED   STAT

The Minister of Health is making an effort to reorganize the course of studies to eliminate the additional year of internship by including more actual practice in the course of studies. Last-year medical students already are doing practical work in hospitals during their vacation periods.

This year it is estimated that the medical profession will be increased by 600 young doctors who must still complete their internship.

There is still another reason for the shortage of doctors, especially in small towns and villages. For example, in the city of Warsaw with a population of 600,000, there are about 1,200 doctors, but, in Warsaw Wojewodztwo with a population of over 2 million, there are not even half that number. In the city of Warsaw, there are about 18 doctors for each 10,000 population as compared to 2.3 in Warsaw Wojewodztwo. Last year, in the city of Krakow, there were 25 doctors for each 10,000 population and less than two in Olsztyn Wojewodztwo. There is a relative oversupply of doctors in Krakow, Poznan Lodz, Gdansk, and Warsaw.

The existing situtation is the reason for the act now being passed by the Ministry of Health to resettle physicians. According to the act, family, age, and health of the physician are taken into consideration in designating those to be resettled. A period of 6 months is allowed from the time of appointment to the time of departure, to make preparations for the move, especially to make a choice of location. The Sluzba Zdrowia (Health Service), organ of health services in Poland, weekly publishes a list of vacancies on the medical staffs of hospitals, health centers, and Public Welfare Centers in the provincial towns, thus giving the appointee a wide range of locations from which to choose.

- E N D -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED